*The proposed enactment should incorporate important safeguards for exceptional circumstances where the government could be given 'march in rights' to protect public good.

**Report of NSSO**

1879. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Suvey Organisation report entitled "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05" revealed that Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh remain the poorest States in the country in terms of Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure of rural population compared with 30 per cent at the all India level, the people in the States living below the MPCE level of Rs. 365/- which is Rs. 12 a day;

(b) if so, the other main points of the survey report; and

(c) the steps being considered to improve the standard of rural people in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Based on the percentage of rural population below specified levels of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) given in the Report No. 508(61/1.0/1), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-2005", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004 – June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13% of the rural population in the country is estimated as less than Rs. 12.00 (Rs. 360/– per month) per day. According to the above report of the NSSO, 55.96% of the rural population in Orissa, 53.33% in Chhattisgarh, 45.47% in Madhya Pradesh, 44.13% in Bihar, 44.22% in Jharkhand and 31.79% in Uttar Pradesh have per capita consumption expenditure less than Rs. 12 per day.

(b) The other main points of the above survey report are:

(i) Average monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) in 2004-05 was Rs. 559 in rural India and Rs. 1052 in urban India.

(ii) In 2004-05, 5% of the Indian rural population belonged to households with monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) in the range "Rs. 0 to 235", that is spending less than Rs. 8 per person per day on consumption. Another 5% of the Indian Rural population belonged to households with monthly per capita expenditure in the range "Rs. 235-270", that is, spending about Rs. 8-9 per person per day on consumption.

(iii) The poorest 5% of the urban population of India (ranked by per capita spending levels) in 2004-05 belonged to households with monthly consumer expenditure per person in the range "Rs. 0-335", that is, spending less than Rs. 11 per person per day on consumption. Another 5% of the Indian urban population belonged to households with monthly per capita expenditure in the range "Rs. 335-395", that is, spending about Rs. 11-13 per person per day on consumption.

(iv) About 5% of the rural population of India in 2004-05 had MPCE of Rs. 1155 or more; another 5% had MPCE between Rs. 890 and Rs. 1155. About 5% of the urban population of India in 2004-05 had MPCE of Rs. 2540 or more; another 5% had MPCE between Rs. 1880 and Rs. 2540.

(v) Out of every rupee spent in 2004-05 by the average rural Indian on consumption, 55 paise was spent on food. Of this, 18 paise was spent on cereals and cereal substitutes, 8 paise on milk and milk products, 6 paise on vegetables, 5 paise on edible oil, 5 paise on sugar, salt and spices, and 5 paise on beverages, refreshments and processed food. Out of every rupees spent in 2004-05 by the average urban Indian on consumption, 43 paise was spent on food. Of this, 10 paise was spent on cereals and cereal substitutes, 8 paise on milk and milk products, 6 paise on beverages, refreshments and processed food, and 4 paise on vegetables.

(vi) In both rural and urban India, fuel and light took up 10% of total consumer expenditure while clothing, bedding and footwear took up 5%

(vii) Medical expenses formed 7% of total consumer expenditure in rural India and 5% in urban India,

(viii) Educational expenses formed 3% of total consumer expenditure in rural India and 5% in urban India,

(ix) Conveyance expenses formed 4% of total consumer expenditure in rural India and 7% in urban India.

(x) Average quantity of cereals consumed per person per month in 2004-05 was 12.1 kg in rural areas and 9.9 kg in urban areas.

(xi) Average value of cereals consumed per person per month was Rs. 101 in rural India and Rs. 106 in urban India.

(c) The government has adopted a three pronged strategy to improve the living standard of the poor in rural areas: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. In the rural areas, the main programmes which are being implemented by the Government for upliftment of poor families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

**Tansparency in NKC**

1880. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vice-Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission, has accused in January, 2007 the Penal of lacking transparency;

(b) if so, how the basic objectives envisaged while setting up the National Knowledge Commission, would be achieved, when during the year 2006 two Members, had resigned on the issue of providing 27 per cent reservations for other backward classes;

(c) whether the Hon'ble P.M. or Minister of HRD made special efforts to